

Amber Waves

The Economics of Food, Farming, Natural Resources, and Rural America

MARCH 2012 • INDICATORS TABLE

Farm, Rural, and Natural Resource Indicators

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011		Annual percent change	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Cash receipts (\$ bil.)	288.5	318.3	283.4	312.3f	365.9f	10.3	-11.0	10.2	17.2		
Crops	150.1	176.8	163.7	170.9f	200.6f	17.8	-7.4	4.4	17.4		
Livestock	138.5	141.5	119.8	141.5f	165.4f	2.2	-15.3	18.1	16.9		
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	11.9	12.2	12.3	12.2f	10.6f	2.5	0.8	-0.8	-13.1		
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	318.0	352.0	317.6	345.6f	396.1f	10.7	-9.8	8.8	14.6		
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	77.7	90.4	69.1	91.3f	109.8f	16.3	-23.6	32.1	20.3		
Net value added (\$ bil.)	117.2	136.6	112.1	129.0f	153.7f	16.6	-17.9	15.1	19.1		
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,841.2	1,780.6	1,811.8	1,880.8f	1,944.9f	-3.3	1.7	3.8	3.4		
Farm debt-asset ratio	10.4	12.0	11.9	11.3f	10.4f	15.4	-0.8	-5.0	-8.0		
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	54,428	51,431	52,235	54,162	55,131f	-5.5	1.6	3.7	1.8		
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	131.3	116.6	133.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) ¹	3.5	2.2	2.7	1.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Cropland harvested (million acres)	312	315	310	315	302p	1.0	-1.6	1.6	n.a.		
USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) ^{1,2w}	4.5	5.2	4.9	5.7	6.2p	15.6	-6.0	16.1	8.7		

Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

U.S. gross domestic product (\$ bil.)	14,062	14,369	14,119	14,698f	n.a.	1.9	-2.5	4.2	n.a.
Share of agriculture & related industries in GDP (%) ¹	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8f	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Share of agriculture in GDP (%) ¹	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.9f	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total agricultural imports (\$ bil.) ²	70.1	79.3	73.4	79.0	94.5	13.1	-7.4	7.6	19.6
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ²	82.2	114.9	96.3	108.7	137.4	39.8	-16.2	12.9	26.4
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) ¹	21.8	21.7	19.8	21.0f	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	202.9	214.1	218.0	219.7	227.8f	5.5	1.8	0.8	3.7
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	52.8	53.4	53.4	53.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)	248.1	267.0	276.5	269.3	n.a.	7.6	3.6	-2.6	n.a.
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending (\$ bil.) ²	54.3	60.9	79.2	95.4	103.3	12.2	30.0	20.5	8.3

f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. na = Not available. All dollar amounts are in current dollars.

¹The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics.

²Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

Sources and computation methodology are available at: www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm